

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for
2 use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition, wherein
3 the CAR-mediated disorder or condition is hypercholesterolemia ~~that involves aberrant~~
4 ~~cholesterol levels~~, the method comprising:

5 identifying a candidate therapeutic agent by screening one or more compounds to
6 determine whether said compounds can modulate a CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction;
7 administering the candidate therapeutic agent to a test mammal; and
8 determining whether the level of a cholesterol indicator is modulated in said test
9 mammal.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate therapeutic
2 agent is 5 β -pregnan-3,20-dione.

1 Claim 3 (canceled): The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated
2 disorder or condition is selected from the group consisting of: hypercholesterolemia, lipid
3 disorders, atherosclerosis, and cardiovascular disorders.

1 Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the test
2 mammal is a cholesterol-elevated mammal.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the test mammal has a
2 disruption in both CAR alleles.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is
2 the level of serum cholesterol.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is
2 the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol,
3 and VLDL cholesterol.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is
2 the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated
2 intermolecular interaction is CAR-mediated gene expression.

Claims 10-32 (canceled)

1 Claim 33 (currently amended): A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for
2 use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition, wherein
3 the CAR-mediated disorder or condition is hypercholesterolemia that involves aberrant
4 ~~cholesterol levels~~, the method comprising:
5 administering a compound to a CAR compromised mammal; and
6 determining whether administration of the compound results in a change in
7 cholesterol level compared to a CAR compromised mammal to which the compound is not
8 administered.

1 Claim 34 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein the method further
2 comprises administering the compound to a CAR non-compromised mammal and comparing the
3 effect on the cholesterol level indicator of administering the compound to that of administering
4 the compound to the CAR compromised mammal.

1 Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level
2 indicator is the level of serum cholesterol.

1 Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level
2 indicator is the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL
3 cholesterol, and VLDL cholesterol.

1 Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level
2 indicator is the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

1 Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said CAR compromised
2 mammal is a mammal having a disruption in both CAR alleles.

1 Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said CAR compromised
2 mammal is a mouse.

1 Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption occurs in
2 the coding region for the DNA binding domain of CAR.

1 Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption in a CAR
2 allele comprises an insertion at codons for amino acid positions from about amino acid 21 to
3 about amino acid 86 of CAR β .

Claims 42-59 (canceled)